

Jack Brandt says:- "As no doubt many have told you, 22 was not the number of stamps perfined but rather the number of cards serviced. I bought one of these cards from Ken Gibson back in 1984, and still have the original bill which I kept because it gave quantity of items serviced. The original cost of the card was £2-25p. He also serviced 20 covers, of which mine has 3 stamps on it. I also have 6 mint stamps in my collection. I would guess over a 100 stamps were perforated.

Ken also had perforated stamps of other locals. The ones I know of include: STEEPHOLM, CANNA, PUFFIN PECULIAR, LES ECREHOU, ILES CHAUSEY, and LES MINQUIERS. He also perforated a GB Frama label.

Also existing with this perfin is the now defunct PINAPPLE POST, a US local from Hawaii. I believe about 20 were perforated, about half of which were used on cover."

Alan Sandy sent me the following article which he wrote for *The Bay Area Perfin Association Newsletter* in February 1999. This is his local, San Francisco Bay Area, regional perfin newsletter. [As an aside, they have 25 members and get together often, even if only in twos or threes or more. A good idea for our members.]

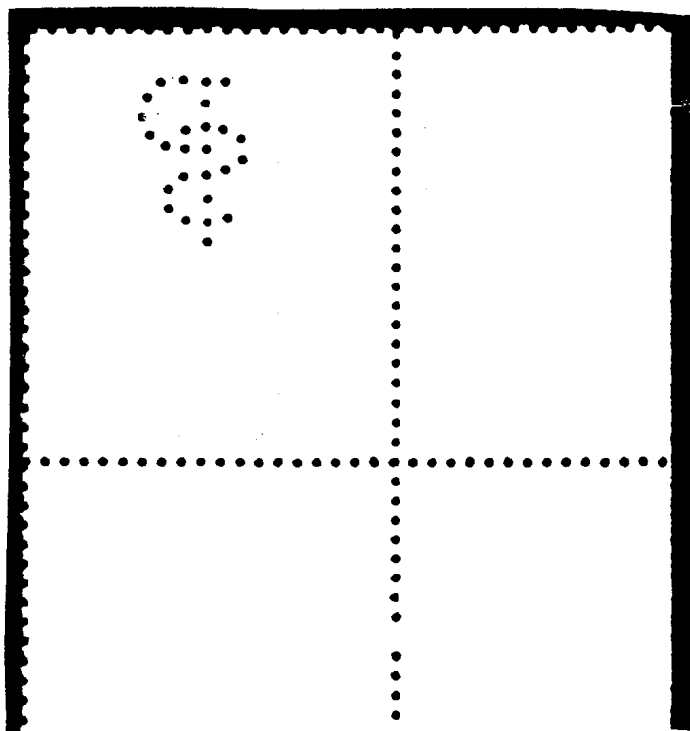
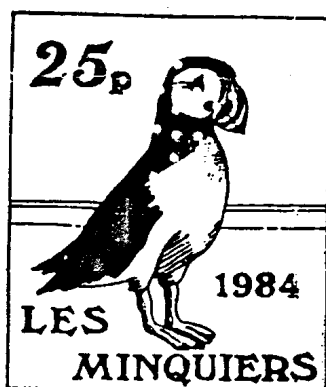
A Story of Les Minquiers: a Mystery Solved?

In the last published census of foreign perfins of the American Perfins Club, Les Minquiers appear as record number 23, along with other British "locals". This appearance led me to search for perfins from this entity. In the census, no collector admitted to having an example. According to a

write-up in my possession about the Channel Islands and the PS monogram of the Perfin Society of Great Britain, the monogram was first used in August, 1984, on certain labels issued by one Ken Gibson for a number of islands off the coast of Britain.

Les Minquiers were among these islands: they are some rocks southwest of Jersey in the Channel Islands, the largest being Maitresse He. The trouble started early in the summer of 1984. These islands, known as the "Minkies", were "occupied" by French students in early June, 1984. In August of the same year in a retrograde instance of British imperialism, certain Brits resenting these French students hoisting the tricolor on these rocks, retaliated by re-occupying the islands.

To commemorate their daring-do, the Brits sent "re-occupation of the island" letters to each other from Jersey - with the label illustrated below. So far so good. An amusing prank. But what interests us is that these "carriage labels" bear the Perfin society monogram perfin and are given first day of usage status by these philatelic soldiers of fortune.



Is there any reason to consider these artifacts real perfins? I lean toward thinking that I have shown that probably the Minkies do not belong in the inventory of entities using perfins. These labels aren't postage stamps, nor even officials or revenues. Why should not the Perfins Club consider removing them from its official list in the next census. According to the aforementioned write-up, the islands do have the southernmost building in the British Isles: a public toilet. Done for a cod, the perfinned labels are cinderellas and harmless indeed. Maybe, for the census, we need another category beyond postal, revenue, stationery, and official. Cinderellas? Other?"

Notes From The Editor Rosemary Smith

I share with you some comments from Floyd Walker in his *Editor's Comments* in The Perfins Bulletin.

"Speaking of our fellow editor, Rosemary Smith, once again ... She recently noted that she had misspelled the address of one of her Club's officers on the front page of several issues before anyone caught it. We can identify with such undetected errors. One such goof that got past everyone earlier this year was the accidental omission of Whole Number 528 from the Bulletin series. There's no real way to recover from a goof like that except admit it and apologise in advance for the questions it will surely raise for future librarians."

This comment was in the November/December issue and it hit the nail on the head. No one noticed (or were too polite to say) that I had printed (Sept'00) on every page of the (Oct'00) Bulletin. I did apologise at the London meeting.